a bed of rosebushes exhibits, in advance of the roses, its shining labels of yellow wood.

There I finish *La Fillc sauvages*- I low badly M. de Curel writes! I read Saint-Simon all the way back. How Retz and he set themselves off to advantage!

I read as I should like to be read: very slowly. For me reading a book amounts to closeting myself with the author for a fortnight.

Fred Natanson, returning the manuscript of Sai/Z,[23] thinks it necessary to add: "Besides., I have never read the Bible," It's odd the way all the educated Jews I know make a point of honor of never having read the Bible, * . . What the devil are they afraid of finding in it? Nothing annoys me more. It's like Schvvob spreading papers over his mirrors. And this allows them not to admit their uglinesses; yes, but by the same-token they miss their beauties, I must discuss this with Blum,

27 February

At last we are leaving! For the last fortnight I have been very impatient, Today, after last night's heavy ruin, the air has suddenly become unbearably warm. Suddenly I long for Naples rather than Cuverville. I shall languish there,

Cuverville, 2 March

Went in the buggy to Beuzeville to fetch the gardener we had sent for. I read, or rather try to read, Balzac's *La Vicillc Fille^* but since leaving Paris three days ago, my mind is completely absorbed by the work to be done in the garden and I can think of nothing else,

My *Immoraliste* is already so far behind me that I cannot bring myself to correct the proofs.

3 *March*

Little Louis M.; very good, but so youngl . . . He has just got out of the schools of horticulture, nursery techniques, etc.

He is full of the new wine of his knowledge; it is important for him to show what he is worth and that he is not a mere workman but a sort of intellectual. He must have listened to his teachers attentively, for he recites their lessons endlessly. He says "'English style** about a park, but Cuverville

[23] *The Wild Girl,* by Frangois de Curol (1902), the most ambitious play by this philosophical dramatist, which traces the evolution of humanity through the example of the protagonist,

[28] Andr6 Gide's five-act drama about Saul and David, written in 1897 and published in 1902.

[24] *The Old Maid,* one of the stories that Bakuc classified among his *Scenes of Provincial Life*